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# HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST from McGRUFF



Look around your home. Would you be able to get in and out quickly and undetected? If your answer is yes, so could a burglar. Use this checklist to identify features in your home or daily routines of your family which might make your home an easy target for a burglar.

***Delaying a burglar for four minutes is generally considered sufficient to prevent entry into a house or apartment. It is nearly impossible to make a home or apartment impregnable — but it is relatively easy and inexpensive to make entry difficult and delay a burglar.***



## **FAMILY HABITS**

Yes No

1. Are your home and garage doors always locked? ☐ ☐
2. Are ground floor windows always closed and locked when no one's at home? ☐ ☐
3. Are spare keys never hidden outside the home (such as under the mat)? ☐ ☐

**Almost 50% of burglars get in through unlocked doors and windows. Buy deadbolt locks for doors and use them!**

## **FRONT, SIDE and REAR ENTRANCES**

1. Are doors made of metal or solid wood construction? ☐ ☐
2. Are door frames strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading? ☐ ☐
3. Are door hinges protected from removal from outside? ☐ ☐

4. Can door locks be manipulated by breaking glass or door panels to reach inside? Can locks be reached through a mail slot, delivery port or pet entrance? Yes No  
☐ ☐

**Locks should be at least 40 inches away from windows or glass panels or other openings.**

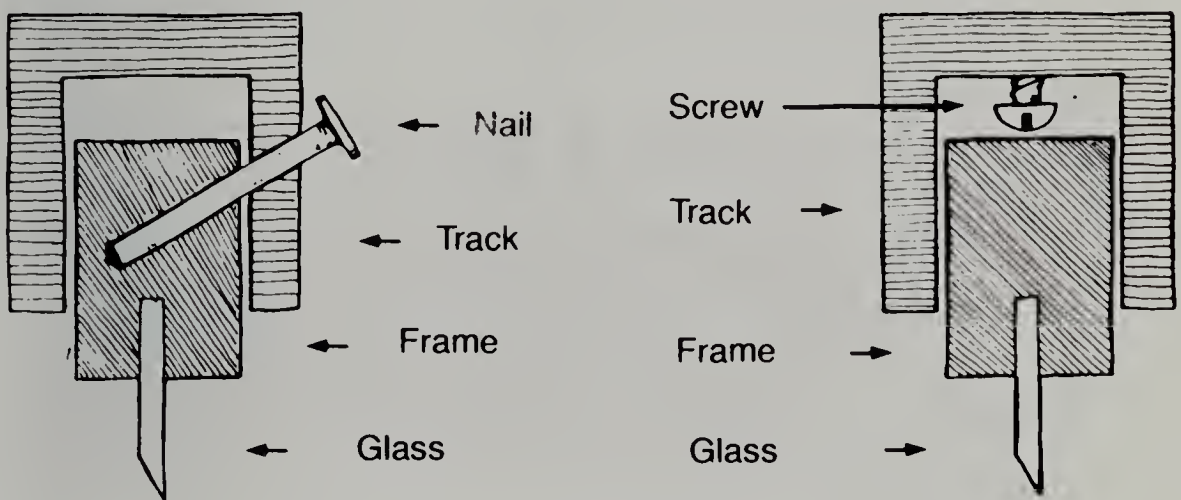
5. Are the locks on your door adequate and in good repair? ☐ ☐

6. If there are no windows in the doors, are there wide angle viewers or voice intercommunications devices? ☐ ☐

7. Are there adequate locks on all screen or storm doors? ☐ ☐

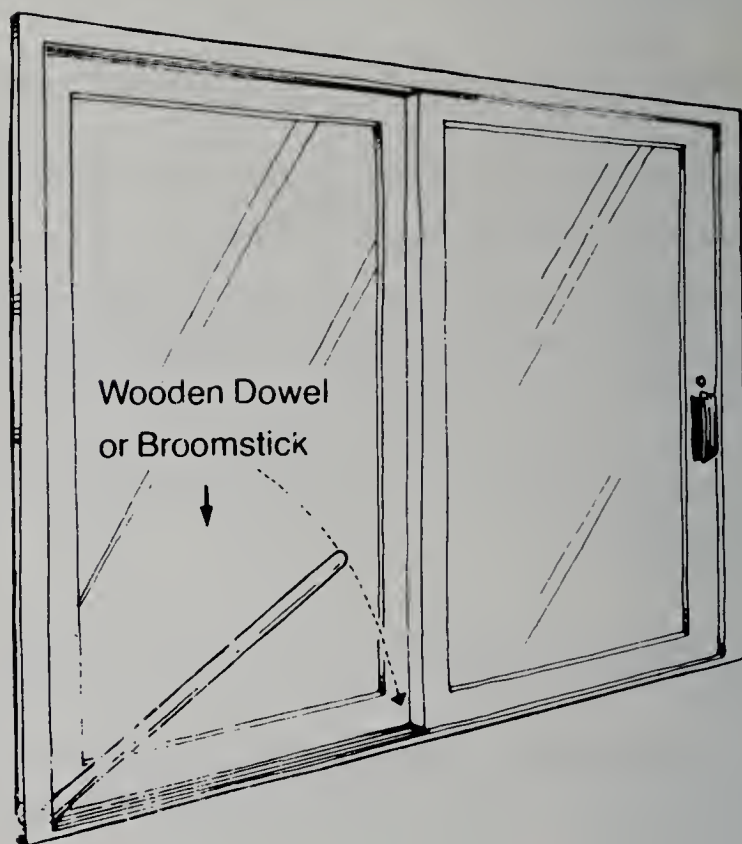
8. If any of these doors are sliding glass, is the sliding panel secured from being lifted out of the track? ☐ ☐

**Insert a nail halfway into a hole drilled in the top or bottom of the frame to prevent the panel from being removed.**



9. Are exterior and all entrances lighted with at least a 40 watt light? ☐ ☐
10. Can entrances be observed from street or public areas? ☐ ☐
11. Does your porch or landscaping offer concealment from view from the street or a public area? ☐ ☐
12. Is a rigid wooden dowel placed in the track or a key operated auxiliary lock used on sliding glass doors? ☐ ☐
13. Is your house or apartment number clearly visible from the street (and alley) to help police and fire departments respond to emergency calls? ☐ ☐





## ENTRANCES FROM GARAGE and BASEMENT

Yes No

1. Are all entrances to your living quarters from the garage and basement of metal or solid wood construction? ☐ ☐
2. Does the door from the garage to living quarters have locks adequate for exterior entrance? ☐ ☐
3. Does the door from basement to living quarters have an adequate lock operated from living quarters side? ☐ ☐

## GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS

1. Do all windows have adequate locks in operating condition? Can they be easily forced open even when locked? ☐ ☐
2. Do windows have screen or storm windows that lock from inside? ☐ ☐
3. Are exterior areas of windows free from concealing structure or landscaping? ☐ ☐
4. Is the exterior of your home adequately lighted at all window areas? ☐ ☐

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## UPPER FLOOR WINDOWS

Yes No

1. Do any upper floor windows open onto porch or garage roofs or roofs of adjoining buildings? ☐ ☐
2. If so, are they secured as adequately as if they were at ground level? ☐ ☐
3. Are trees and shrubbery kept trimmed back from upper floor windows? ☐ ☐
4. Are ladders always kept locked up and inaccessible to outsiders? ☐ ☐

**Don't leave ladders, garbage cans, or other things lying around that can be used to stand on to reach higher windows.**

## BASEMENT DOORS and WINDOWS

1. Is the outside door to the basement adequately secure for an exterior door? ☐ ☐
2. Is outside basement entrance lighted by exterior light of at least 40 watts? ☐ ☐
3. Is outside basement door concealed from street or neighbors? ☐ ☐
4. Are all basement windows adequately secured against entrance? ☐ ☐

## GARAGE DOORS and WINDOWS

1. Is automobile entrance door to garage equipped with adequate locking device? ☐ ☐
2. Is garage door kept closed and locked at all times? ☐ ☐
3. Are garage windows secured adequately for ground floor windows? ☐ ☐
4. Is outside utility entrance to garage as secure as required for any ground floor entrance? ☐ ☐

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5. Are all garage doors lighted on the outside by at least a 40 watt light? Yes No  
☐ ☐

*If you answered NO to several of these questions, I encourage you to make the necessary improvements to help "take a bite out of crime." For a free professional security inspection of your home, contact your local law enforcement agency.*



# TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME®

For more information contact:

**McGRUFF**

120 S. Riverside Plaza  
Chicago, IL 60606-3997  
1-800-4-McGruff

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